

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/488,969

Examiner

MaiKhanh Nguyen

Applicant(s)

BAER ET AL.

Art Unit

2176

- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERIT IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the RCE filed 04/27/2009 and the telephonic interview on 06/12/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-6, 9-11,14, and 15 (now renumbered as Claims 1-9).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 12/21/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 06/12/2009.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

/Laurie Ries/
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100
14 June 2009

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT & REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

I. EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT:

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Stuart B. Shapiro (Reg. No. 40,169) on 06/12/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

I. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for providing prerequisite checking in a computer system for creating a user-defined, ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object that is generated by the computer system, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the web-based content object and stored as a plurality of hierarchically related individual content entities in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, the method comprising the steps of:

defining the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object,

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user through a ~~computer~~ web-based user interface for the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

and if so,

automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in direct response to user interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object,

wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules, and wherein selection by the user of an entity having prerequisites causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects complying with the conditions in [[the]] a final compilation,

creating a file object defining the compilation that contains a list or outline of the content entities selected, their identifiers, order and structure, and
storing the file object separately in the data repository.

2 – 3 (Canceled).

4. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

5. (Previously presented) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, further comprising the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

6. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing prerequisite checking in a computer system for creating a user-defined, ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object that is generated by the computer system, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the web-based content object and stored as a plurality of hierarchically related individual content entities in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, the method comprising the steps of:

defining the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object,

adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user through a ~~computer web-based user~~ interface for the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and

designated for inclusion in each ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

and if so,

automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in direct response to user interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object,

wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules, and wherein selection by the user of an entity having prerequisites causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects complying with the conditions in [[the]] a final compilation,

creating a file object defining the final compilation that contains a list or outline of the content entities selected, their identifiers, order and structure, and

storing the file object separately in the data repository.

9. (Previously presented) The program storage device of claim 6, in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite, the method further comprising the step of reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules.

10. (Previously presented) The program storage device of claim 6, wherein the method further comprises the step of rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

11. (Currently amended) A system including at least one processor for providing prerequisite checking in a system for creating a user-defined, ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object that is generated by a computer system, being one of a book, a document, a collection of images, a collection of musical selections, a video and a multimedia object, from a plurality of individual content entities including content for the web-based content object and stored as a plurality of hierarchically related individual content entities in a data repository as a plurality of individual file objects, some of the content entities being prerequisites to others of the content entities, the system for providing prerequisite checking comprising:

a computer system including:

means for defining the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object by a list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by a user for the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object,

means for adding or removing a selected content entity to or from the list indicating the content entities from the data repository specified by the user through a ~~computer~~ web-based user interface for the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object to add or remove the selected content entity to or from the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object, wherein a prerequisite content entity is associated with another content entity and designated for inclusion in each ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object for which that other content entity is selected and placed, and wherein designations of prerequisite content entities for content entities within the data repository are stored external of the individual file objects containing the content entities,

means for examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity,

means for automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in direct response to user interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the ~~computer-based~~ web-based content object,

wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules, and wherein selection by the user of an entity having prerequisites causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects complying with the conditions in [[the]] a final compilation,

means for creating a file object defining the final compilation that contains a list or outline of the content entities selected, their identifiers, order and structure, and

means for storing the file object separately in the data repository.

12 – 13 (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for reducing the rule set if possible into a smaller set of rules in the case of more than one of the rules pertaining to the same prerequisite.

15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising means for rewriting any negative rules as positive rules.

II. REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

Claims 1, 4-6, 9-11, 14, and 15 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not expressly teach or render obvious the invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 6, and 11.

The features as recited in independent Claims 1, 6, and 11 “*examining the stored designations of prerequisite content entities and determining if the selected content entity has any prerequisite content entities designated for that content entity, and if so, automatically adding or removing the designated prerequisite content entities to or from the list in direct response to user interaction initiating the addition or removal of the selected content entity to add or remove the prerequisite content entities to or from the web-based content object, wherein the conditions for applying a prerequisite are defined in one or more rules, and wherein selection by the user of an entity having prerequisites causes automatic inclusion of all associated prerequisite objects complying with the conditions in a final compilation, creating a file object defining the compilation that contains a list or outline of the content entities selected, their identifiers, order and structure, and storing the file object separately in the data repository*”, when taken in

the context of the Claims as a whole, were not uncovered in the prior art teachings.

Dependent Claims are allowed as they depend upon allowable independent claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact information

- III. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/MaiKhanh Nguyen/
Examiner, Art Unit 2176

/Laurie Ries/
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2100
14 June 2009